

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5454

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the annual placement of memorials honoring the service in the Armed Forces of veterans who, at the time of death, were homeless or indigent.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the annual placement of memorials honoring the service in the Armed Forces of veterans who, at the time of death, were homeless or indigent.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Indigent Veteran Re-
5 membrance Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM OF MEMORIALS TO**
2 **DECEASED HOMELESS AND INDIGENT VET-**
3 **ERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 24 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new section:

7 **“§ 2412. Program of memorials to deceased homeless**
8 **and indigent veterans**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Subject to the
10 succeeding provisions of this section, the Secretary shall
11 establish a program for the placement of a unique memo-
12 rial each year in four cemeteries in the United States to
13 honor the service in the Armed Forces of veterans who
14 at the time of death were homeless or indigent.

15 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT OF MEMO-
16 RIALS.—(1) The cost of the plan, design, construction, in-
17 scription, and placement of a memorial under the program
18 may not exceed \$12,000.

19 “(2) In the case of the placement of a memorial in
20 a cemetery under the program that is not under the con-
21 trol of the National Cemetery Administration, such place-
22 ment is contingent upon receipt by the Secretary of notice
23 in writing from the person or entity that owns the ceme-
24 tery of its willingness to accept the memorial and to per-
25 petually maintain the memorial consistent with standards
26 of the cemetery for maintenance of memorials.

1 “(3) The selection of cemeteries for placement of me-
2 morials under the program shall assure that memorial
3 placements are geographically diverse and are varied with
4 respect to the persons or entities that own, or have admin-
5 istrative jurisdiction over, the cemetery.

6 “(c) SELECTION OF INSCRIPTION OF MEMORIALS.—

7 (1) Each memorial to be placed under the program shall
8 bear a unique inscription of less than 160 characters to
9 honor the memory of veterans interred in the cemetery
10 who at the time of death were homeless or indigent.

11 “(2) The inscription for a memorial under the pro-
12 gram shall be selected by the Secretary from among sug-
13 gested inscriptions solicited from individuals, schools,
14 businesses, and other appropriate organizations (including
15 veterans service organizations), geographically proximate
16 to the cemetery at which the proposed memorial is to be
17 placed.

18 “(3) An inscription selected by the Secretary should
19 carry out the purposes of engaging the community in-
20 volved in remembrance of the service of veterans who at
21 the time of death were homeless or indigent and gener-
22 ating greater awareness of the plight of homeless and indi-
23 gent veterans.

24 “(d) CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COM-
25 MITTEE ON CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS.—The Sec-

1 retary shall carry out the program, including the annual
 2 selection of sites for placement and the inscriptions of the
 3 memorials, in consultation with the Advisory Committee
 4 on Cemeteries and Memorials established under section
 5 2401 of this title.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 7 tions at the beginning of chapter 24 of such title is amend-
 8 ed by adding at the end the following new item:

“2412. Program of annual memorials to deceased homeless and indigent vet-
 erans.”.

9 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans
 10 Affairs shall implement the program under section 2412
 11 of such title, as added by subsection (a) so that placement
 12 of memorials under the program begins on November 11,
 13 2003.

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